



# Environmental Bulletin

from the Savannah River Site

## Interim Action Proposed Plan C-Area Burning/Rubble Pit Operable Unit

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the C-Area Burning/Rubble Pit (CBRP) operable unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and are recommending the following interim actions for the CBRP:

(1) For the source unit and its soils: placement of a native soil cover in conjunction with institutional controls. This interim action will act as a barrier to prevent soil exposure to future human and ecological receptors and will also reduce the infiltration of rainwater and thereby limit the potential migration of contaminants from the CBRP soils to the groundwater.

(2) For groundwater: in-situ air sparging with soil vapor extraction (SVE) in the upper water table. This interim action will remove the high concentrations of solvents primarily trichloroethylene, (TCE) that could migrate from the upper to the lower water table.

The CBRP was a shallow, unlined earthen pit (25 feet in width by 350 feet in length),

with depths of 8 to 12 feet. During the operation of the pit, it served as a repository for organic materials of unknown use and origin, waste oils, paper, plastics, and rubber. Disposal records, including composition, origin, and use of materials disposed, were not kept for this unit during its period of operation. The collected materials were burned periodically to reduce the overall waste volume. After burning was discontinued in 1973, the CBRP was converted to a rubble pit, and when full, it was backfilled with soil to grade level. The pit is presently inactive.

The public comment period is scheduled for April 17, 1998 to May 16, 1998. Comments on the Interim Action Proposed Plan are requested by May 16, 1998. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary will be prepared which addresses public comments. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Interim Record of Decision,

and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Interim Action Proposed Plan are available in the Administrative Record, available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;
- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

The Interim Action Proposed Plan is also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Happening Now", (<http://www.srs.gov>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, (<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/enviro-rest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>).

# SRS preparing Environmental Assessment on wetlands construction

The Savannah River Site (SRS) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental consequences associated with the construction and operation of artificial wetlands to treat effluent discharges from the A-01 outfall. The outfall is located near the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) in the Administrative Area at SRS. The discharge is process water and storm water from the Administration Area, and the contamination is most likely from old piping from the Savannah River Technology Center.

A revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit was issued for SRS in 1996. This type of permit is issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to protect surface water by requiring that the discharge of pollutants be controlled or prevented. In this permit, new outfall limits which will become effective on October 1, 1999, were established for copper, lead, mercury, and chronic toxicity. Since the new permit was issued, the makeup of the effluents discharged at the A-01 outfall has consistently not met the new 1999 permit limits for both copper and chronic toxicity.

SRS is considering the construction of wetlands to provide treatment of the effluent so the site will be able to meet the revised outfall limits. This proposed action would include the installation of below-the-surface-flow wetlands with a detention basin to receive flow from the various substreams which contribute to the A-01 outfall.

A notification of SRS's intent to prepare this draft EA was sent to the States of South Carolina and Georgia on January 27, 1998. If you wish to request a copy of the predecisional draft EA and Floodplain/Wetlands Assessment, please contact:

Andrew R. Grainger  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Savannah River Operations Office  
Building 773-42A, Room 212  
Aiken, SC 29808.

Or you may request a copy by e-mail at [nepa@srs.gov](mailto:nepa@srs.gov) or by calling/faxing 1-800-881-7292. Written comments postmarked prior to April 24, 1998, will be accepted and after that date will be considered to extent practicable.

## for more information...

The Statements of Basis/Proposed Plans are also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Happening Now", (<http://www.srs.gov>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, (<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/enviro-rest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>). Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays at the following locations:

SCDHEC  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
8901 Farrow Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29203  
Phone: (803)896-4000

or  
SCDHEC  
Lower Savannah District  
Environmental Quality Control Office  
218 Beaufort St., N.E.  
Aiken, SC 29802  
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested by contacting John Litton. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan may be sent to Mary Flora and comments on the draft RCRA permit modification may be sent to John Litton. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Mary A. Flora  
Westinghouse Savannah River Company  
Savannah River Site  
Building 703-A  
Aiken, SC 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
[mary.flora@srs.gov](mailto:mary.flora@srs.gov)

or  
SCDHEC  
Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director  
Division of Hazardous and Infectious Waste Mgt.  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 896-4000

# Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

- **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**

The public comment period ended January 5, 1998. Comments are being resolved and will be incorporated in the final EIS which is expected to be issued second quarter, 1998.

- **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)**

The comment period ended February 2, 1998. Final EIS and ROD are projected for July and August 1998, respectively.

- **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**

Publication of the draft EIS is projected for May 1998 and final EIS and ROD for fall 1998.

- **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**

Multiple RODs will be issued. The TRU ROD was issued January 23, 1998 (63 FR 3629). Planned Storage in December 1998, LLW/LLMW in

February 1999.

- **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**

Work on draft EIS has begun again and is expected to be available in July 1998.

- **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**

The draft EIS is scheduled for July 1998.

- **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of second quarter 1998.

- **Reuse of TNX as a Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Project Campus (DOE/EA-1231)**

The comment period ended February 17, 1998. A NEPA determination will be issued in April 1998.

- **A-01 Outfall Constructed Wetland Project (DOE/EA-1246)**

The NEPA determination is expected in late April 1998.

## Need NEPA documents?

Andrew R. Grainger

U.S. Department of Energy  
Savannah River  
Operations Office

Building 742-A, Rm. 183  
Aiken, S.C. 29802  
E-mail: nepa@srs.gov  
Fax/Phone: 1 (800) 881-7292

## INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

\* DOE Public Reading Room, Gregg-Graniteville Library, USC-Aiken, Aiken, S.C. \* Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department, USC-Columbia, Columbia, S.C. \* Reese Library, Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga. \* Asa H. Gordon Library, Savannah State University, Savannah, Ga.

## INTERNET ACCESS

### SRS Home Page, "What's New"

(<http://www.srs.gov>)

### SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page

(<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/envirorest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>)